

## Fact Sheet

May 2002

## Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program

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### **Overview**

The Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program (CPGL) is a voluntary program that helps owners and managers of private grazing land address natural resource concerns while enhancing the economic and social stability of grazing land enterprises and the rural communities that depend on them. CPGL is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the program.

CPGL is available in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

### **Benefits**

Grazing lands cover an immense area and provide a diversity of ecological and economic benefits to local residents and society in general. Healthy grazing lands provide water for urban and rural uses, livestock products, flood protection, wildlife habitat, purification of air, and carbon sequestration. These lands also provide aesthetic value, open space, and vital links in the enhancement of rural social stability and economic vigor.

### **How CPGL Works**

CPGL provides for technical assistance from NRCS to owners and managers of private grazing land to voluntarily conserve or enhance their resources to meet ecological, economic, and social demands. To receive technical assistance, a landowner or manager may contact the local NRCS or conservation district office.

This assistance offers opportunities for:

- Maintaining and improving private grazing land and its management;
- Implementing grazing land management technologies;
- Protecting and improving the quality and quantity of water;
- Maintaining and improving wildlife and fish habitat;
- Enhancing recreational opportunities;
- Maintaining and improving the aesthetic character of private grazing land;
- Identifying opportunities and encouraging diversification; and
- Encouraging the use of sustainable grazing systems.

Requests for technical assistance through CPGL are prioritized by NRCS and the local conservation district to ensure that assistance is provided in a fair and equitable manner. This program does not include financial assistance. However, financial assistance may be provided through other Federal, State, and local programs that address grazing land resource concerns.

### **Eligibility**

All owners and managers of private grazing land are eligible to receive technical assistance from NRCS.

### **For More Information**

If you need more information about CPGL, please contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information also is available on the Illinois NRCS homepage at [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov) or [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/)



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